FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
P. O. Box 2604
Washington, D. C. 20013

4 JUN 1985

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Department of Computer Science
Colgate University
Hamilton, New York 13346

STAT

Dear

     Thank you very much for your letter of May 13 outlining some of your projects dealing with machine translation and computer aids to translation. FBIS is always interested in keeping up with research in these fields.

STAT

     While we are unlikely to be in a position to provide additional support for your projects, I would be happy to have one of my officers discuss your projects with you in greater detail. Special Projects Officer in our Production Group, will contact you in the near future.

     Thank you for advising us of your projects.

Sincerely,

STAT

Director

STAT

DDS&T/FBIS, (4 Jun 85)

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Department of Computer Science
Extension 719

May 13, 1985

Mr. John Chandlee, Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service
PO Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013

Dear Mr. Chandlee:

As head of an agency that presides over a great deal of translation work, we thought you might be interested in several projects currently under way in our department. We, for our part, are looking for wider applications for our projects, and additional support, especially in terms of staffing and equipment.

The projects that might be of interest for you are:

1. An MT translation project (Tucker, director; Nirenburg co-principal investigator, NSF funded)

2. Scholars Workbench, a group of projects designed to give a scholar integrated on-line access to such varied tools as bibliographies and library resources, bilingual dictionaries, Computer Aided Instruction materials, text processing tools, and so forth (Tucker, director)

3. In parallel with the Scholars Workbench, the following two projects are developing:

    -   creating Computer Aided Instruction materials for foreign language teaching,

    -   writing a series of morphological analysis programs that, given a word in, say, Russian or German, return its dictionary for grammatical characteristics, and translation. (A. Nakhimovsky and foreign language faculty)

It is this last project, in conjunction with the Scholars Workbench environment, that could be helpful to your agency, if you decide to automate some of your translation work. We are working towards an environment in which a translator, while working on a text, can access several bilingual dictionaries, both general and specialized; or build up his/her own terminological dictionary of words and phrases. The dictionaries will be arranged on several levels of detail, with the top level giving a brief summary of meanings, and deeper levels providing more nuanced definitions, specialized terminological information, and examples of usage. Also available will be a grammar of the

source language and a dictionary-grammar index that would relate words in the dictionary to corresponding grammatical generalizations. It seems to us that such an environment will be useful not only for a scholar and a student, but for a professional translator as well.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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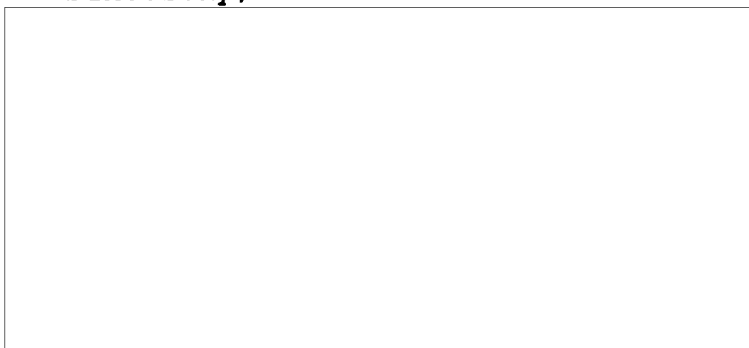
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P.S. We are also writing to the Director of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Chief of the USSR Division, JPRS.